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INTRODUCING  
GEORGE GIDNEY'S ANCESTRAL LINEAGE

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Mrs. Clara Gidney Sidwell  
Rt. 3, Box 208A  
Provo, Utah, 1941-42

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## INTRODUCING GEORGE GIDNEY'S ANCESTRAL LINEAGE

An Ancestry of Distinguished English- French

Stock----Heraldic Royalty

George Gidney's remote ancestors migrated from Paris, France, about the time of William the Conqueror's invasion of England. This is a tradition told by William Gidney, nephew of George Gidney. The early ancestors used the prefix "de" in their names--de Gadeney.

The seat of the Gedney's in England was in Lincolnshire. Originally the name was Gadeney, then Gedney, and Gidney. "Gad" signifies "bird".

---Bates Surnames, p. 405

### The Name and Family of Gidney

The surname of Gedney is derived from the residence of its first bearers in a parish so called near Wisbech County, Lincoln, England. In ancient English and early American records the name appears in the various spellings of Gedeney, Gideney, Gidneye, Gedneye, Gidney, and Gedney, of which the last is the form most frequently in evidence in America in modern times.

The lines appear to have belonged chiefly to the landed and educated classes. As early as the year 1275, Hervey de Gedney was living in Lincolnshire, but the earliest connected records of the family in that place begins with Robert Gedney who was resident at Fleet County, Lincoln, before the year 1400. the earliest seat of the family was in Lincolnshire. Later branches of the Gidneys of Lincolnshire, England, moved to Norfolk, Suffolk, Stafford, and London.

---Media Research, Washington D. C.

### Lord Mayor of London

John Gedney (The Honorable Lord Mayor of London) was named Gidney. He died in 1449.

---Suffolk Surnames, N. I. Bowdich,  
p. 431.

John Gedney was elected Mayor of London from 1427 to 1428 and re-elected from 1447 to 1448. He died in 1449.

---London, Vol. II-XXVII.

Although he first refused to accept the office of Alderman, he held that office for thirty-four years, being mayor twice. His obstinancy was only overcome by his committal to prison and the forcible closing of his shop. In 1444 he married the widow of Robert Large (Mayor 1439-1440.)

---London, Vol. II, p. 163

And a third a perpetual chantry was founded for John Gidney (Mayor of London in 1447). He was buried in this church. . . . (History of London, Vol. I, p. 522).

John Gidney's people were of Lincolnshire, England, whose progenitors were of France.

George Gidney descended from the Franch- English royalty through heraldry. He is also a kin of John Gidney (the Hon. Lord Mayor of London) and other notables of the descendants of the English Royalty fused with a sprinkling of the French with the chivalric subjects of King Charles I.

The stability of those good citizens was par excellence. It won for them noble, heraldic achievements which brought them into recognition by the Royal Government. Thus they became recognized through merit by "Coats of Arms", and titles such as Sir, Esquire, and Lord.

The above ancestral line is that of George Gidney's progenitors.

The English Atlas shows the Gedney seat in the south-west corner of Lincolnshire. The following are to be found in Holland, Lincolnshire, England:

#### Gedney Hill Cemetary

A stone tablet stands against the north wall of the chancel chapel. On a book this is inscribed: "Be not slothful, but follow through faith and patience to inherit the promises. Life how short, eternity how long.

---Lincolnshire I, p. 140.

#### Gedney Church

This is a very handsome church. It consists of a nave and side aisles divided by six fine pointed arches, and a chancel, with a tower at the West end. The east window of the north aisle is filled with very beautiful painted glass and in another window of the same aisle are these arms--argent, three lions passant sable. There is also in all the other windows of the church some painted glass. There are twelve Clerestory windows, which are very handsome.

---Lincolnshire I, p. 140.

#### Gedney Hill Chapel

Gedney Hill Chapel is located in South Holland, Lincolnshire, England.

---Lincolnshire IV, p. 51.

#### Gedney Fan Chapel (South Holland, Lincolnshire, England)

Gedney Genend--This was a chapel of ease belonging to Gedney aforesaid, the inhabitants of this hamlet do keep this chapel in good repair and decency.

---Lincolnshire IV, p. 51

Gedney (St. Mary Magdalene)  
A parish in the union of Holbeach, Holland Co. Lincolnshire.  
---Survey Gazetter British Isles, p. 246.



In the south-east corner of Lincolnshire there is a parish named Gedney Parish, Gedney town, Gedney Marsh.  
---English Atlas, Lincoln, England.

#### Coat of Arms

One of the most ancient of the coats of arms borne by the English family Gidney is that described in heraldic terminology as follows: Burke, Encyclopedia of Heraldry, Arms--"Argent, two fishes in saltire azure". Crest--"a bird perched on an oak plant proper".

---Media Research Bureau, Washington D. C.

#### The Fatherland of George Gidney-- Norfolk County, England

"The extensive county of Norfolk (Sharrington, where George Gidney was born) is bounded on the north and north-east by the German Ocean, on the south and south-east by Suffolk, on the west by the Lincolnshire Washes, and part of that country and Cambridgeshire. It is almost surrounded by the sea and the rivers which form its internal boundry; its figure presents an almost unbroken convexity to the ocean, and also to the land, forming thus nearly an oval. It ranks as the fourth largest county in England. Norfolk and Norwich, province of Canterbury, and include the county of the city of Norwich.

Norfolk was inhabited by a race called the Iceni for nearly 4,000 years of the existence of the world. It was invaded by Julius Caesar. Historians agree that the aborigines of Britain were a tribe of Gallic Celts, who migrated from the continent 1000 years B. C."

---Norfolk X, Gazetteer, History of Norfolk.

Sharrington (All Saints), a parish, in the union of Wolsingham, hundred of Holt, W. division of Norfolk, three miles (west south-west) from Holt; containing two hundred twenty-nine inhabitants.

---Lewis's Topographical Dictionary, England,  
Vol. IV, p. 58.

#### First Gedney in America, 1639, John Gedney

"In the following papers will be found some account of two families, the first of which Gedney flourished in Salem, Mass. during the first century after the settlement of New England, and became connected by marriage with other important and distinguished families of the colonial period, and one or two members of which held some of the most prominent offices of trust and honor in town and state. The second of these families (Clark) first settled in Salem early in the eighteenth century and continued here about a hundred years. Their connection with the family of Lord Fairfax, who have held a most distinguished position both in England and America, and through them with the family of Washington of Virginia will I suppose impart some interest to this portion of my work."

---New England Genealogical Society

John Gedney, the immigrant, was born in 1603, in Yarmouth, Norwich Co. Norfolk, England. He immigrated in the ship Mary Ann, 1637. He brought with him his wife Mary, and three children, Lydia, Hannah, and John. He made

his home in Salem, Mass. where he was recorded as a freeman in 1638. He had issue there of four children. He died in 1688. His son John married Susanna Clarke. Deborah Gedney (his granddaughter) married Frances Clarke and her daughter Deborah married the English nobleman, Baron Fairfax of England.

The Gidneys, Clarkes, Fairfax and Washingtons of Virginia inter-married and brought forth a wonderful progeny. They were among the prominent and professional people of America such as: doctors, writers, inventors, lawyers, historians, authors, ship-builders, etc.

---Media Research Bureau, Wash. D. C.

#### Yankee Grandmother of a British Peer

In the gallery of the Essex institute at Salem hangs this portrait, by Smithbert, of Deborah Gedney Clarke, a New England matron whose descendants springing from humble origin, allied themselves with some of the first families of Virginia, by one of which alliances this worthy woman, a native of Salem, became the grandmother of a British peer.

Deborah Gedney was born in Salem in 1777. Her father was Bartholomew Gedney, a judge, and commander-in-chief of the militia of Essex county. Her grandfather, John Gedney, did not stand so high socially as his son, for he kept the Ship tavern in Salem. Deborah Gedney had a twin sister, Martha, who died young.

In 1701 Deborah married Francis Clarke of Salem, who was born in England. He owned a farm in the north part of Lynn, now embraced in Lynnfield. They had seven children, the fourth was named Deborah.

In 1725 there came to Salem William Fairfax, a grandson of Baron Fairfax. He had been in the Bahama Islands, where he had held an official position, and he became the royal collector of customs for the port of Salem, an important post in those days.

William Fairfax was married when he arrived in Salem, but his wife died in 1731, and he took for his second wife young Deborah Clarke. With her he sailed away to Virginia in 1734 to take charge of large estates there owned by his cousin, the sixth Baron Fairfax.

They settled on a beautiful plantation of 2000 acres on the Potomac, fourteen miles from Alexandria. Here they entered into the courtly social life of the Virginia planters, which must have been in marked contrast to the society ways to which the young Mrs. Fairfax had been accustomed in Salem. Among their guests was a youth destined in later years to become "first in the hearts of his countrymen." The Washington and Fairfax families were intimate, and the Salem bride saw a good deal of George Washington.

Three children were born of the union of William Fairfax and Deborah Clarke. The eldest was Bryan, who became an Episcopal clergyman. In 1793, his father being dead, he inherited the title of Baron Fairfax. He took no steps to claim it until 1798, when he went to England. His claim was confirmed by the House of Lords in 1800.



Lord Fairfax's younger sister, Hannah, married Warner Washington, eldest cousin of George Washington. A half-sister, Anne, born in Salem of his father's first marriage, married Lawrence Washington, brother of George Washington.

(From a newspaper clipping collected by the New England Genealogical Society and pasted in the book "The Gedney and Clarke Families of Salem, Mass.")

The family tomb of Mr. Bartholomew Gedney in King's Chapel Yard carries an armorial tablet, bearing three eagles displayed: crest, an eagle displayed. This would seem to connect them with the Gedney family of Suffolk, England.

---Burke's General Armory. Gedney and Clarke by Waters, p. 30

Chronological History of George Gidney, Pioneer and Benefactor of the Nineteenth Century.

George Gidney was the second emigrant of the Gidneys to America. He was born in Sharrington, Norfolk, England, November 3, 1838. He was the son of William and Ann Bambridge Gidney.

After having made a tremendous sacrifice--religion or love--he became affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1858. He was baptized in England by William Newell.

He migrated to America when he was twenty-two. He crossed the Atlantic ocean on the ship Cynosure of British Mission, May 30, 1860. When he reached New York he met a rich relative who offered to finance George through a law school; but he declined the generous offer, as much as he longed for it. He said that he preferred to take his lot with the poor saints in Utah. So in 1860 he crossed the plains with Daniel Robinson's hand-cart company. After arriving in Utah he was re-baptized by John Caristensen of Brigham City, Box Elder County, Utah. He settled in Brigham City and became a great land owner. He made a desert spot "blossom as a rose."

"Brigham City (named for Brigham Young, second president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints) was first settled on April 11, 1851, by William D. Brooks and Thomas Pierce. They built log cabins and were soon joined by several other families. The county seat was located at Brigham City. May 10, 1869 the first transcontinental railroad was completed at Promintory Point, Utah."

---Church History, Encyclopedia.

George Gidney contributed generously of his land to the railroad company that it might go through Brigham City. He also gave other choice plots of land for public enterprizes.

Previous to the railroad going through Utah, George was employed by a man by the name of Cotton Thomas, a very prominent figure in the affaires of Box Elder county at that time. He was paid a good salary, but after having been at work a short time he was called by Brigham Young to go and bring some emigrants across the plains.

Envy frowned upon George because cash was out of the question in those pioneer days. Many people expressed how lucky he was, and yet, what a fool, to give up such a splendid position for such a call.

#### Immigration Across the Plains

"In 1862 Captain Horton's Company consisted of two hundred and sixty-two wagons, two hundred and ninety-eight men, two thousand eight hundred and eight oxen. They made three trips across the plains in nine months". Their "bill o'fare" was bacon and hard-tack.

---Church History, Emigration.

In 1866 to 1876 there was war between the Indians and the Whites. George was conscripted as a soldier to go and fight the Indians at Big Horn, Wyoming, near the close of "Custer's last fight."

---History of the Church, Encyclopedic

Those trying experiences became stepping-stones to higher achievements. Although a stranger in a strange land far removed from kin, George was building around him a monument of stability, faith, and fidelity to a living God and the religion he espoused.

November 30, 1869 George married Elizabeth Sarll of Salt Lake City. Nine children were born of that union, only four survived. His vocation was horticulture and stock-raising. Later he established a mercantile business. He was ambitious for higher education and had an innate talent for law. Consequently he attended night school during the winter months under an efficient teacher, Elijah Box.

George helped to build up a great common-wealth. A "united order" was established in Brigham City under President Lorenzo Snow, who was sent there by President Brigham Young as a colonizer of the Box Elder Stake of Zion.

George was closely associated with President Snow. He was active in all of President Snow's church projects and enterprises for the building up of Zion. President Snow offered to give George one of his fair daughters for a wife, but he declined the offer. He made his own choice.

September 6, 1884, George received a call to fill a mission to Great Britain. He disposed of his business and all plans were made for him to leave on the above date. At that juncture, a high salaried position was offered him. President Lorenzo Snow said he could decide whether he'd prefer to accept the office of Superintendent of the Brigham City Mercantile Institution--(Coop store, as it was familiarly called) or go on the mission. However President Snow said he could be released from the call to the mission field. Yet it was left to George to decide. He talked it over with Elizabeth, his wife. They both decided in the affirmative that the mission call came first.

During the month of October he departed on his far away journey. All during his absence, the windows of heaven opened and innumerable blessings were showered down upon his family.



However, the tide changed. The damp climate did not agree with him. The following year he was released to return home. Six months after his return his wife very suddenly died in her thirty-ninth year--April 23, 1886. The funeral was held in the Brigham City Tabernacle, a recognition of President Snow to George Gidney.

During the years of 1886 to 1894 the country suffered a dreadful depression under the administration of President Grover Cleveland. George was not the type to give up. His unallayed faith transcended the vicissitudes of life. He struggled heroically during those dark days of depression. It was hard to make a living and to care for his motherless children was an arduous task. But he was hopeful and cheerful before his family, even in those strenuous times of losses and crosses. Many a sleepless night he spent pacing the floor wondering what course to pursue under the existing conditions.

During these troublous times a bishop's son, whom George had trusted, absconded with his entire band of horses. His mercantile business failed, because the people whom he had given credit to failed to pay their debts. Consequently, he borrowed eleven hundred dollars to pay off his creditors instead of going into bankruptcy. Therefore he retired from his business respectably. It was finally all paid. George Gidney was thrifty and he left a large estate when he died, which according to his will, was equally divided among his heirs.

George became a teacher both by example and precept. His philosophy was: "Honesty is the best policy". "It is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong." Such were the teachings of a father to his children.

A rift broke through the cloud for George. He attended a Norwich Conference re-union in Salt Lake City. There he met a charming English lady, Emma Rand. Their courtship was brief and the marriage ceremony was solemnized in the Logan Temple, March 24, 1887. Six children blessed their union. George was the father of fifteen children by his two wives.

After a successful career, George died, May 9, 1905.

A newspaper clipping states the following: "Another of Box Elder's Pioneers Passes Away at His Home in Brigham City--Sick, One Week to the Minute--Leaves a Large Family Behind.

"In the passing of George Gidney, at his home in Brigham City, Second Ward, Tuesday, one more pioneer of Box Elder county, a good man, and an affectionate father and husband has ceased his labors here. Mr. Gidney was conscious to the very last and called around him his family and gave each of them a father's blessing. He sent for the undertaker and made all necessary arrangements for the burial, and seemed to make all the necessary arrangements with as much coolness and composure as one would were they making preparations for a journey. Having called in the doctor and enquired if it was necessary to embalm the body, and having given instructions to all the family, he asked to be turned over, called for a drink of water, and after drinking it, said, "This is the last, the end is approaching", and at 9:45 a. m. closed his eyes and passed from this life as serenely and peacefully as an infant goes to sleep in its mother's arms."



### CONCLUSION

"The race is not to the swift  
But to those who endure to the end."

---Bible

George Gidney was honored and loved. He was a great benefactor, the peacemaker, the honest man, who was loyal to the church and constitutional government of the United States. His fidelity to the church was enduring to the end. His abiding faith in God never wavered. He rose above malignancy and the wiles of Satan. He learned that every gift from God was based upon the great irrevocable law upon which all blessings are predicated. He played a great role in the drama of life. He climbed the ecclesiastical ladder from deacon to High Priest. He sat as a judge in Israel. Many a case awaited his decision; mercy and justice were his stronghold.

He lived on temporary with the following presidents of the church: Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, and Joseph F. Smith. He loved those valient men of God. He was loyal to them. He recognized their authority. He was dutiful, humble, but not servile. Consequently he died an honored and esteemed pioneer, a loyal citizen and a staunch Latter Day Saint. It was through kindness and firmness that he acquired the art and dexterous ability of handling fiery human steeds. He triumphed over the trials of life and gained a victory of self-mastery.

His name will now go down on record: He fought a good fight and remained true to the end. His compensation will come in this wise: That from his issue will be produced a "Noble Race", whom the Lord God hath withheld for six thousand years to come forth on earth to bloom in latter Israel. In this wise hath God given him recognition and in turn will his descendents remember him as their great progenator, thus fulfilling God's promise to one of his descendents which is verified by Brigham Young and President Woodruff that a noble race--a Royal Priesthood--would come to earth in latter days.

George inherited a noble birth-right. His sacrifices and exemplary life is a priceless legacy of far greater worth than estates of gold or silver to be handed down to his descendents yet unborn.

---By Clara Gidney Sidwell,  
June, 1941

P. S. Proving his Birth-right and Lineage

His Honorable Forefathers--the seed of nations

Latter Day Saints claim lineal descent from Israel, the chosen people of the Lord.

According to his patriarchal blessing he is a lineal descendent of Joseph and Asenath through the lineage of Ephraim. (Princess Asenath was the daughter of Potipherah, Prince of On, a descent of Shem, son of Noah)

He was blessed with a penetrating mind. He was promised that his name will pass on to his posterity as having been a worthy and Valient soldier who stood firmly in the defense of the principles of truth and righteousness.

"Your descendents will glorify your name.".....

---William Watkins, Patriarch

Information Obtained from Family and Second Ward  
Records at Brigham City, Utah, and the Historical  
Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gidney Genealogy

George Gidney      Father, William Gidney      Mother, maiden name, Ann Bambridge,  
born 3 Nov. 1838, Sharrington, Norfolk, England, Baptized in 1863 by William Newell  
and confirmed in 1863. Rebaptized by John Christensen and reconfirmed by Alvin Nichols.  
Was ordained an elder 27 Jan, 1866 and ordained a Seventy 27 Jan. 1884. Md. 30 Nov.  
1867, S. L. C. Endowment House, Salt Lake City, Utah.      Ordained a High Priest 7 Nov.  
1899.      Died 9 May 1905, Brigham City, Utah.

Elizabeth Sarall      Father, James Sarall.      Mother, maiden name, Susannah Harris,  
born 15 Dec. 1847      Gamlingay, Cambridshire, Eng.      Bap Feb. 1863 by Thos. Crowley.  
Confirmed Feb. 1863 by Thos. Crowley.      Rebap. by N. C. Mortensen and Reconfirmed by  
Alvin Nichols.      Died 23 Apr. 1866, Brigham City, Utah.

.....

Children of Geo. Gidney and Elizabeth Sarall Gidney

All born in Brigham City, Box Elder Co. Utah, as below:  
Ann Elizabeth Gidney born 27 Aug. 1868. Blessed 27 Aug. 1868 by Wm. Box.  
Died 17 Nov. 1868.

.....

Ellen Jane Gidney,      Born 15 Dec. 1869. Blessed 1870 by Geo. Gidney. Bap. by proxy  
23 Mar. 1929. Endowed 18 April 1929. Died 16 Sept. 1877.

.....

Clara Gidney      Born 20 March 1872      Blessed 19 Oct. 1872.      Bap 31 Oct 1880 by N. C.  
Mortensen      Conf. 7 Nov. 1880 by Alvin Nichols Sr.      Endowed 8 Nov. 1900      Md. George  
Winslow Sidwell, Manti, Utah, May 30, 1902, S. L. Temple.

.....

William George      Born 26 Nov. 1873.      Blessed by A. Valentine.      Died 13 Sept. 1877.

.....

Susannah Gidney      Born 23 Oct. 1875      Died Sept. 11, 1877.

.....

Arthur James George Gidney, born 14 Feb 1878.      Blessed 14 Feb 1878, by William  
Box.      Died 21 Mar. 1878.

.....

Flora Vilate Gidney      Born 13 March 1879. Blessed 4 Sept. 1879, by Henry Tingey.  
Bap. 17 Oct 1889 by P.P. Siggard.      Conf 3 Nov. 1889 by William Box.      End. 16 April  
1909.      Md. Adrain Elmer Amundson 24 Dec. 1903, S. L. Temple. Died 14 June, 1926.

.....

Albert John Gidney      Born 19 July 1881. Blessed 3 Nov. 1881 by John Welch. Bap. 4  
Sept 1890, by N. P. Mortenson 4 Sept. 1890. Conf. by father 4 Sept. 1890. End. 16,  
Dec. 1920. Md. Lottie Scowell 23 May 1941, Evanston, Wyoming.

.....

Roseline Gidney      Born 4 June 1884. Blessed 4 Sept. 1884 by Wm. Box. Bap. 1 Sept.  
1892 by A. Valentine.      Conf. 1 Sept. 1892 by Geo. Gidney. End. 30 Apr. 1908. Md.  
John Woodmansee, S. L. C. Utah, 30 April 1908 S. L. Temple.

Children of George Gidney and Emma Rand Gidney

William Tracey Gidney      Born 26 Dec. 1887. Blessed 1 Mar. 1888. Geo. Gidney.  
Bap. 4 June 1896 by P. H. Sorensen. Conf. 4 June 1896 by A. Valentine. Md. Maud  
Ireta Wells 10 June 1908, S. L. Temple.

.....

Geo. Gidney Jr.      Born 24 Jan 1890. Blessed 3 Apr. 1890 by A. Nichols. Bap. 7 Aug.  
1898 by P. H. Sorensen. Conf. 7 Aug. 1898 by T. H. Blackburn. Died 12 Nov 1919 in  
France--World War.

Earl Rand Gidney Born 22 Mch 1892 Blessed 2 June 1892 by Geo. Gidney. Died 11 May 1893.

.....  
 Royal Charles Gidney Born 22 Apr. 1895 (Twin) Bap. 22 April 1903 by Geo. Gidney.  
 Md. Anna Wilson

.....  
 Alice Marie Gidney Born 22 Apr. 1895 (Twin) Bap. 22 April 1903 by Geo. Gidney.  
 Md. George E. Mitchell 12 Nov. 1919 at Salt Lake Temple.

.....  
 Edith Ivy Gidney Born 18 Mar 1904 Blessed 20 Apr. 1904. by Geo. Gidney.  
 Bap. 30 Mar 1912 by A. W. P. Hansen. Conf 31 Mar 1912 by Peter Knudsen.  
 Md. Leland Briem 29 June 1927, Salt Lake Temple.

Emma Rand, Second Wife of George Gidney  
 (Information obtained from Family and Second Ward Records,  
 Brigham City, Utah)

Father's name John Bowler Rand. Mother's maiden name Mary Ann Bryant.  
 Born 7 April 1861 Lowestoft, Suffolk, England. Baptized  
 End. 24 Mar. 1887. Married 24 March 1887 at Logan Temple, Utah. Died 19 Dec. 1929,  
 Ogden, Utah, buried in family plot at Brigham City, Box Elder Co. Ut.



George Gidney-born Nov. 3, 1838, Sherrington, Norfolk, England  
 died May 9, 1905, Brigham City, Utah









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